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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Administrative Testimony

Testimony of Kamanaʻopono Crabbe, Ph.D

Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

Honolulu City Council

Bill 15, CD2, Proposed FD1 (Submitted by Councilmember Ozawa)

Relating to the Executive Capital Budget and Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to
June 30, 2017

June 1, 2016

10:00 a.m.

City Council Chamber

The administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs hereby strongly supports the preservation of Kānewai Spring in Kuliʻouʻou, one of the most endangered historic sites on Oʻahu and a source of life-giving waters, not only to the residents of Kuliʻouʻou, but for all the residents of Oʻahu, especially the ʻōpio, the children.

Where the life-giving fresh waters of Kāne meet the life-giving salt waters of Kanaloa, there exists incredible healing and life-sustaining forces in Native Hawaiian belief¹.

Kānewai Spring protects a fertile estuary that is home to rare freshwater limpets pīpīwai and hapawai that precariously cling to the Hawaiian drystack wall lining the spring. This area is also home to ʻamaʻama (mullet) and āholehole (Hawaiian flagtail) that feed on the prized green limu ʻeleʻele that blankets the spring floor, native shrimp ʻōpae ʻoehaʻa and ʻōpae huna, and the endangered ʻaeʻo (Hawaiian stilts) that feed in Kānewai Fishpond.

Kānewai Spring represents one of the last vestiges of healing springs where so many other sacred springs on Oʻahu, and especially in Honolulu, have been destroyed, capped, filled-in, or otherwise decimated.

The City Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission strongly recommended protection of Kānewai Spring, through funding to purchase and preserve this rare gem. A collective effort by many is close to fruition. It seems prudent to protect and preserve first, and then allow all those with vested interests to negotiate the means and methods of long-term care and educational initiatives.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and all those who love and call Hawaiʻi home.

¹ OHA regularly works with Kāne and Kanaloa practitioners who have cultural, subsistence and religious practices protected by Article 12, Section 7 of the Hawaiʻi State Constitution.